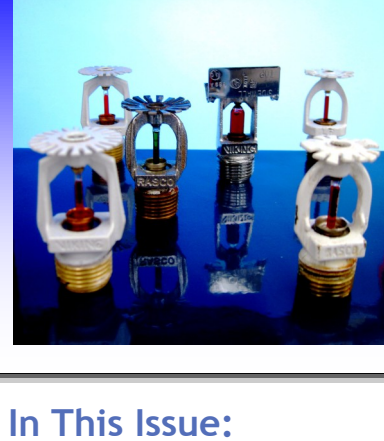
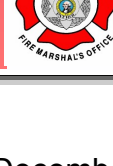


Fire Sprinkler E-News

Keeping You Up-To-Date and Informed

Washington State Fire Marshal's Office
Michael G. Matlick, State Fire Marshal



In This Issue:

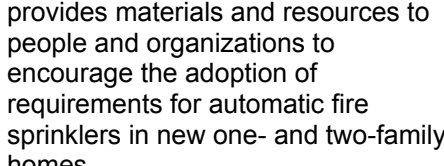
- Public Hearing
- Fitter Program Certificates
- Fitter and Contractor Laws
- Errors Slow Renewals
- Sprinkler Contractor Bond
- IRC Definition of Townhome
- 2009 Forum
- Residential Sprinkler Education
- Training Events
- Presentations
- TAG Meeting Dates



Residential Fire Sprinkler Education Programs

[Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition](#)

[IRC Fire Sprinkler Coalition](#)



NFPA launches Fire Sprinkler Initiative

NFPA's new [Fire Sprinkler Initiative](#), "Bringing Safety Home", provides materials and resources to people and organizations to encourage the adoption of requirements for automatic fire sprinklers in new one- and two-family homes.



Fire Safety & Prevention Resources

Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems



Redmond Live Fire Tests

Residential Sprinklers in Action

This DVD is available at no charge to Authorities Having Jurisdiction. To request a copy, please contact Regulatory Services at, 800.595.9844 or by email at ulregulatoryservices@us.ul.com.



Fire Sprinkler Technical Advisory Group Meeting Dates

General Administration Bldg
210 11th Ave SW, Olympia
WSP Conference Room

Thursday, March 26 1:00-3:00

Thursday, June 25 1:00-3:00

Thursday, Sept. 24, 1:00-3:00

Thursday Dec. 17, 1:00-3:00



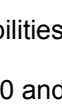
2009 Training and Events

May 18-20 — NICET Level 1
Residential Design

May 20-22 — NICET I&T—NFPA 25

Workshop—Promoting Residential Fire Sprinklers—TBA

13D System Design and Flow Test



Presentations Offered by OSFM Staff

- Identification of Recalled Sprinkler Heads
- Underground Portion of Fire Sprinkler Systems
- Building Owner Responsibilities
- Sprinkler Law RCW 18-160 and WAC 212-80 for AHJ's

To have one of these presentations given at your business or organization, contact [Ed Borgatti](#) or [Karen Jones](#).



Training

- WA State Fire Marshal
- Nat'l Fire Sprinkler Assoc.

Testing

- NICET

Public Education

- Home Fire Sprinkler Coal.
- WA State Fire Marshal

Saves

- Spokane

Links

- WA State Fire Marshal
- American Fire Sprinkler Assoc.
- Nat'l Fire Sprinkler Assoc.
- Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board of Puget Sound
- Nat'l Fire Protection Assoc. (NFPA)
- WAC 212-80
- RCW 18-160
- RCW 18-270
- Society of Fire Protection Engineers
- Empty Shoes WA (after following this link the empty shoes link is on the right side)



Applications

Contractors: Level 1,2,3,U & ITT

- Application
- Affidavit
- Terms of License
- Licensing Bond (Levels 1,2 and I&T)
- Licensing Bond (Levels 3 and U)
- Assignment of Time Deposit

C of C (Designer): Level 1,2,3 & U

- Application
- Affidavit
- Verification of Employment

Inspection and Testing Technician:

- Application
- Affidavit

Fee Schedule

Fitter Program



Contact Us:

Office of the State Fire Marshal
Licensing Section
210 11th Ave SW
Post Office Box 42600
Olympia, WA 98504-2600



[Chuck Duffy](#)
[Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal](#)
Licensing Section



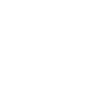
[Ed Borgatti](#)
[Deputy State Fire Marshal](#)
Investigations



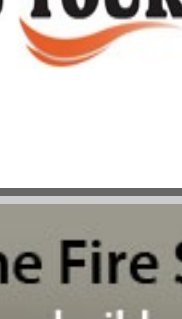
[Karen Jones](#)
[Deputy State Fire Marshal](#)
Training/Licensing



[Humberto Rodriguez](#)
[Comm. Trade and Economic Devel. Spec. 1](#)
Licensing



[Angie Benson](#)
[Office Assistant 3](#)
[Sprinkler Fitter Program](#)



[Sprinkler Fitter Program Inquiries](#)

**PREVENT FIRES
IT'S YOUR JOB!**

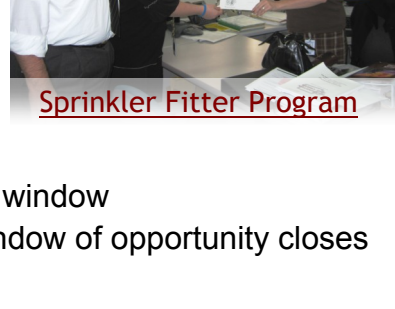


Public Hearing

The hearing for WAC 212-80 was held on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 in hearing Room A of the John L. O'Brien Building. Ten comments were received for consideration. All requests either did not apply to the proposed amendments or had already been considered. No changes were made to the proposed amendments.

Sprinkler Fitter Program Issues First Certificates

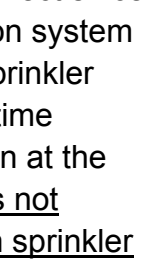
The first certificates issued by the new Fire Sprinkler Fitter Program were mailed to applicants in December. As of February 27, 1,493 certificates have been issued and mailed.



[Sprinkler Fitter Program](#)

Please help us ensure that eligible installers apply during the grandfather window to avoid unnecessary testing. This window of opportunity closes March 31, 2009.

Please note: Fitter applications and notarized attachments must be an original document with original signatures. Please do not fax or send by e-mail.



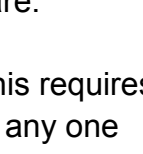
Fire Sprinkler Fitter and Contractor Laws

There are two separate laws we are dealing with here and they can get confusing.

RCW 18.160 is the Contractor's law that has been in effect since 1991, requiring anyone who contracts for fire protection system work to be licensed by this office as a fire protection sprinkler system contractor. A condition of that license is a full time employee certified by this office as competent to design at the same level the company is licensed. RCW 18.160 has not changed. Anyone who does any type of fire protection sprinkler work, whether they are a plumber or fitter, must comply with all requirements of RCW 18.160.

RCW 18.270, the Fire Protection Sprinkler Fitter law, became effective January 1, 2009. This law requires anyone who "installs, alters, or repairs sprinkler, standpipe, hose, or other hazard systems for fire protection purposes that are an assembly of piping or conduit beginning at the connection to the primary water supply within a building, sprinkler tank heaters, air lines and all tanks and pumps attached thereto" (this is a definition from the pending WAC 212-80), to be certified by this office as a journey fitter, residential fitter, or a trainee. The one exception of RCW 18.270 is a licensed plumber who is doing the physical work of installing a residential fire protection sprinkler system connected to a potable water source (meaning a combination system). This means if a licensed plumber works on a fire protection sprinkler system that is in a residential building with a combination plumbing and sprinkler system, they do not need certification per RCW 18.270. However, anyone working on installing any stand alone fire protection sprinkler system must comply with all requirements of RCW 18.270 and possess the proper fitter certification.

Again, RCW 18.160 has not changed and anyone who does any type of fire protection sprinkler work, regardless of any other license and/or certification, must comply with all requirements of RCW 18.160.



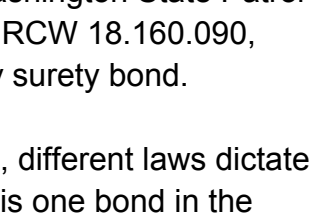
Errors Slow Processing of 1300 Renewals

Licensing and certification renewals continue to be processed by this office. The four leading problems with renewals are:

1. No renewal information included with check. This requires us to find out what is being paid for and contact any one we can to properly credit the account and forward a certificate or license.
2. Need NICET Certification. Each person is contacted to request documentation that they passed the correct NICET certification level.
3. Fee not included or fee amount is incorrect.
4. Bond Cancelled. A contractor whose bond has been cancelled cannot be renewed.

Each one of these situations will cause us to stop the renewal process and contact the licensee/certificate holder to correct the problem. In this renewal process there were 78 renewals needing correction before the license or certificate could be processed.

Sprinkler Contractor Bond

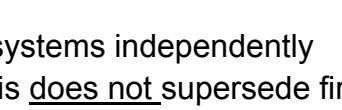


[Sprinkler Contractor Bond](#)

When renewing a cancelled bond, be aware there are two separate bonds—one for the Department of Labor and Industries and one for the Washington State Patrol. The Labor and Industries bond is the contractor bond for licensing with that office. The Washington State Patrol bond is for a Fire Sprinkler Contractor per RCW 18.160.090, requiring an additional separate third party surety bond.

Though both are indeed state government, different laws dictate these separate programs. The end result is one bond in the name of the Department of Labor and Industries and a second bond with the Washington State Patrol both serving different functions.

A common mistake is that the bonding agency indicates the Washington State Patrol on the form and fills it out with the L&I bond information.



IRC Definition of "Townhome"

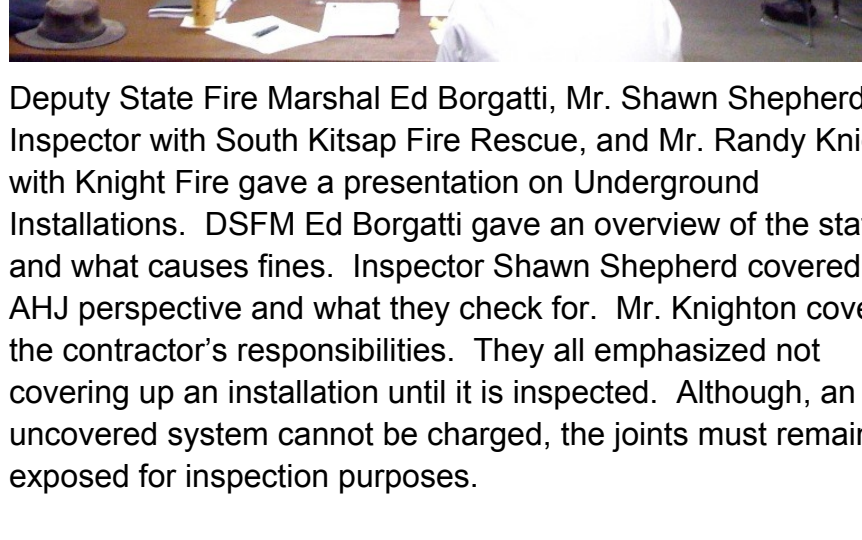
Townhome: A single-family dwelling unit constructed in a group of three or more attached units in which each unit extends from foundation to roof and with open space on at least two sides.

Each townhouse (IRC R317.2) is considered a separate building and is required to be separated by fire-resistive rated wall assemblies meeting the requirement of IRC R302 for exterior walls. This requires two separate 1-hour rated walls. An exception under IRC R317.2 allows for a common 2-hour rated wall between the units, with no plumbing, mechanical equipment, ducts, or vents in the wall. The common wall is required to be continuous from the foundation to the underside of the roof sheathing and continuous the full length of the unit.

2009 Contractor AHJ Sprinkler Forum

The Forum started off with opening remarks by State Fire Marshal Mike Matlick who welcomed all attendees from the fire service and sprinkler industry.

Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Chuck Duffy and Office Assistant 3 Angie Benson gave a presentation on the Sprinkler Fitter Program. They emphasized getting applications in during the grandfather process which ends March 31.



Deputy State Fire Marshal Ed Borgatti, Mr. Shawn Shepherd, Inspector with South Kitsap Fire Rescue, and Mr. Randy Knighton with Knight Fire gave a presentation on Underground Installations. DSFM Ed Borgatti gave an overview of the state law and what causes fines. Inspector Shawn Shepherd covered the AHJ perspective and what they check for. Mr. Knighton covered the contractor's responsibilities. They all emphasized not covering up an installation until it is inspected. Although, an uncovered system cannot be charged, the joints must remain exposed for inspection purposes.

Chief Todd Short with Redmond Fire Department covered developing a residential fire sprinkler ordinance. He emphasized the importance of public education for City Councils using compelling data. He recommended the use of the [Redmond Residential Live Fire Video](#) of a side by side burn room available on the UL web site.

Mr. Tim Nogler, Managing Director of the Building Code Council, gave an update on the Residential Fire Sprinkler TAG. He noted the seven priorities that would be passed on to the legislature.

1. Lack of Education
2. Lack of Preferred Design and Installation Details and Guidelines
3. Cost and Cost Recovery of a Voluntary RFSS Installation
4. Cost for Permit and Inspection
5. Increase Cost of Hook-Up Fees in Form of Stand-By System Development Chagres
6. Shut-Off Issues
7. Water Use Efficiency Rules Credit for Use of Larger Meters.

Mr. Craig Robinson with Smith Fire Systems taught a Class on Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Fire Pumps. He emphasized NFPA 25 Chapter 8 and provided sample inspection sheets.

The Forum concluded with a panel discussion on the following points:

1. **Issue:** Inspectors for Authorities Having Jurisdiction feel they must find a problem with sprinkler installations. **Solution:** Yes, an inspection can be flawless. When questioned on an inspection, share your line of reasoning supported by codes and standards.
2. **Issue:** Indemnification for residential shut offs due to non-payment. **Solution:** Language is being prepared for an indemnification clause for residential shut offs due to non-payment.
3. **Issue:** Inconsistent code requirements from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and code requirements that change before completion of the project. **Solution:** This is a home rule state which gives local jurisdictions a great amount of power to make specific requirements. Preconstruction meetings can catch some of these changes. Many jurisdictions follow the same rules by area or county. Keep an open line of communication with all parties involved to avoid unexpected requirements. Check Seattle's website for their code changes.
4. **Issue:** What is the status of Seattle's Fitter Certification? **Solution:** There has been no change at this time. Fitters still need a separate Seattle certification.
5. **Issue:** Seismic Bracing—I-Codes versus NFPA Standards **Solution:** Pay attention to what you are attaching to and what you are attaching with.

Home Fire Sprinklers

Ask your builder to install fire sprinklers and protect what you value most! [More Information »](#)

